

CSDE-IHE-LEA Workgroup Meeting Notes
October 26, 2012
CSDE

Attendance: Peter Madonia and Gladys Labas, Southern; Maria Kat Davoodi, Alternate Route to Certification; Jess House, Western; Amanda Bozak and Shane Smith, University of New Haven; Christine Emmons, Yale Comer Center; Steve Bergin, Orange Public Schools; Melissa Barbuto, Hamden Public Schools; Judy Carson and Iris White, CSDE

Judy Carson, Consultant, Bureau of Health, Nutrition, Family Services, and Adult Education, CSDE provided information regarding School Governance Councils and School-Family-Community Partnerships (powerpoint is attached).

Judy welcomes the opportunity to partner with higher education institutes.

Iris asked the group if there were other CSDE initiatives they would like information on. There suggestions were: Teacher and Administrator Evaluation, TEAM, CEUs, Common Core (CCSS), Education Reform efforts.

Regarding CCSS, it would be helpful for higher education to know their expected timeline for preparing teachers to implement. IHEs have already heard that districts are asking candidates in interviews questions regarding CCSS. Along those lines, the administrators in the workgroup were asked what specifically would districts like teacher candidates to know about CCSS before they enter the classroom?

Responses:

- General awareness of CCSS (rationale for development, purpose, knowledge of instructional shifts in ELA and Math)
- Differentiation, in particular, for English Language Learners
- Choosing the appropriate instructional strategies to match student's needs

What other skills, not necessarily related to CCSS, would administrators like beginning teachers to have?

Responses:

- Instructional planning (its importance and how to do it thoroughly and well)
- Understanding of what a school climate looks like-at the foundational level
- How to research areas/topics to build one's skills/knowledge

There was a question as to whether or not the state had adopted the edTPA (Teacher Performance Assessments.) Developed by staff at the Stanford Center for Assessment Learning and Equity, it is intended to be used for teacher licensure and to support state and national program accreditation. University of Bridgeport is the only district that the Bureau of Certification knows is piloting the edTPA. The Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC) would be the group to discuss this and make the recommendation.

EPAC has met twice and will meet again in the beginning of November. There are a number of representatives from CSDE, districts, and higher education on the council. Working groups have been established to flesh out the discussions at full council meetings with the goal of preparing recommendations.

Iris and Salvatore Randazzo, from the Bureau of Accountability and Improvement attended the last Deans meeting on October 12th to debrief last April's symposium and make initial plans for the next symposium on Friday, April 19th at Waters Edge. Deans reported that they liked the brief 20 minute updates and appreciated hearing from practitioners from districts.

Suggestions for the next Symposium from the Deans:

- Topic concerning the changing demographics in school populations in the state and the status of ESL instruction, its effect on teacher preparation; are there best practices associated with instruction of ELL students?
- Integrating literacy instruction across the curriculum-we need more examples of how to do this well
- We need to do facilitated discussions between universities and school districts to promote understanding. There is a gap between what school districts believe is going on at the university level and what is actually taking place.
- Examples of collaborative efforts between universities and districts, or even between universities
- Need to keep in mind the work being done by EPAC.

Suggestions from the Work Group on Next Symposium:

- should provide examples of different districts (rural, urban, and suburban) (one group member nominated Meriden) and districts who are at different levels of implementation (beginning, middle and more advanced)
- No definite decisions have been made regarding the Symposium's agenda until we receive more information and direction from EPAC.
- Leadership Training and Expectations—where the state is going with this piece.

Speakers Bureau

Iris will send the group a “mock up” of what the Speakers Bureau site would look like and ask for feedback.

Next meeting: Friday, November 30, 2012, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at CSDE, Room 307A

Possible agenda items:

- Teacher Evaluation and TEAM Updates-Kim Wachtelhausen and Sharon Fuller, CSDE
- Education Reform Updates-Iris White, CSDE
- Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Reform Recommendations-Joe Cirasulo, CAPSS
- Sacred Heart University’s Student Teaching Seminars-Jacqui Kelleher, Sacred Heart
- Educator Preparation Advisory Council
- Speakers Bureau-Iris White, CSDE

Websites for more information on current SDE initiatives:

Teacher and Administrator Evaluation- www.connecticutseed.org

TEAM Program- www.ctteam.org

CAPSS Educational Transformation Project- www.ctnexted.org

Commissioners Network-<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2754&Q=334364>.

Alliance Districts- <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&Q=334226>.

and

edTPA- www.edtpa.aacte.org